GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:39
ANSWERED ON:08.07.2014
STREAMLINING OF PDS
Ahmed Shri Sultan

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to strengthen and streamline the Public Distribution System (PDS) and if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken thereon;

(b) whether demands have been made from various quarters to universalize the PDS and if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard;

(c) the requirement, availability and present stock of foodgrains in the country, State-wise; and

(d) the total quantity of foodgrains lost during storage transit and other reasons during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise along with the measures taken to eliminate/minimise transport loss and theft?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN)

(a),(b) (c) & (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 39 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 08.07.2014 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) The strengthening and streamlining of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is a continuous process. To maintain supplies and secure availability and distribution of essential commodities under the TPDS, the Central Government has notified the Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001. Government has also taken up a Plan Scheme on End-to-end Computerisation to strengthen TPDS Operations. The National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, which has come into effect from 05.07.2013, also prescribes certain reforms in TPDS to be undertaken progressively by the Central and State/UT Governments.

Further, Government has been regularly advising the States/UT Administration for continuous review of lists of beneficiaries, improving the offtake of allocated foodgrains, ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at Fair Price Shops (FPSs),improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels, adoption of revised Model Citizen's Charter and improving the viability of FPS operations, etc.

(b) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) was launched in 1997 with a view to specifically target poor sections of society. Though there have been requests for universalising the coverage under TPDS, it will dilute the focus on poor. Besides, at the current levels of procurement, it is not feasible to meet the foodgrains requirement for universal TPDS.

(c) The State-wise requirement of foodgrains under NFSA, 2013 and State-wise stock position of foodgrains in the Central Pool as on 16.06.2014 is at Annex-I. Sufficient stocks are available in the Central Pool to meet the foodgrains requirement.

(d) Considering the volume of procurement of foodgrains handled, some losses are inevitable during storage, transit, etc. The State-wise details of foodgrains lost during storage, transit and accrued as damaged in the Food Corporation of India during the last three years and the current year upto May, 2014 are at Annex − II, III and IV respectively. The steps taken by the Government to minimize storage and transit losses and to avoid damage of foodgrains are at Annex- V.